

AN
ADDRESS

TO



THE GENTLEMEN

OF THE

HANS TOWN ASSOCIATION,

DELIVERED IN THE FIELD,

UPON THE PRESENTATION OF THEIR COLOURS,

BY

The Rev. RICHARD SANDILANDS, L. L. B.

MINISTER OF EBURY CHAPEL, NEAR SLOANE SQUARE CHELSEA

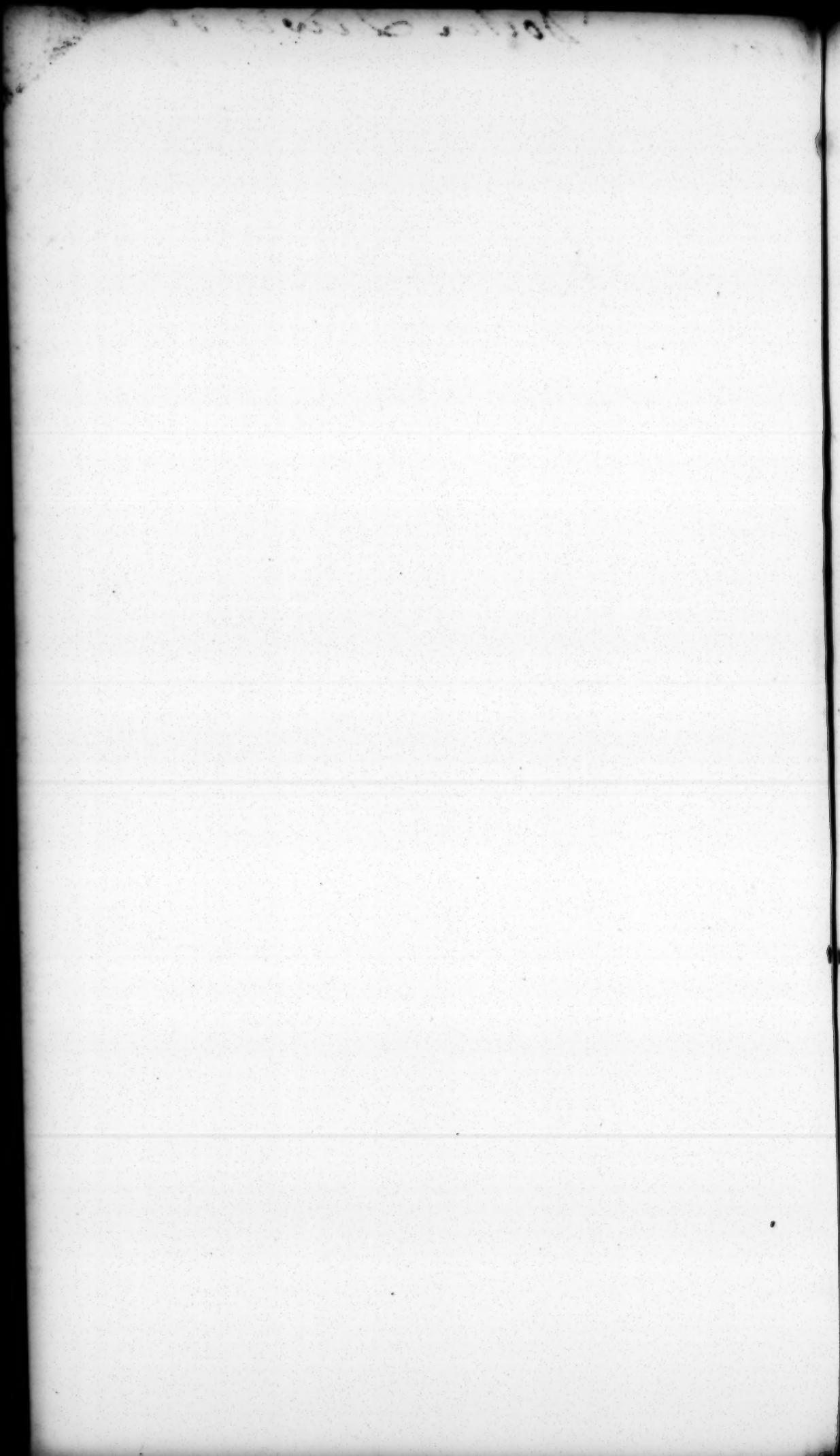
CHAPLAIN TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES,

AND

TO THE ABOVE ASSOCIATION.

MDCCXCVII.

6.



COMMITTEE OF THE HANS TOWN
ARMED ASSOCIATION.

OCTOBER 16th 1798.

THE Committee having duly considered the polite attention of the Rev. Mr. Sandilands to the wishes of the Corps, by his address and exhortation to them on the presentation of the Colours on Wednesday last; resolved unanimously, that the thanks of the Committee and the Corps at large, be conveyed to Mr. Sandilands, signed by the Chairman; that he be requested to print 500 copies of the said address, and that he be pleased to accept the appointment of Chaplain to the Corps.

Extracted from the Minutes.

JAMES WOODBRIDGE, Chairman.

TO

THE GENTLEMEN
OF THE
HANS TOWN ARMED ASSOCIATION.

GENTLEMEN,

IN compliance with the wish you have been pleased to express, that the address I delivered before you, on the presentation of your colours, might be printed ; I have taken the earliest opportunity in my power of revising and printing the same : and have only to regret that my humble endeavour to co-operate in the laudable undertaking of your respectable Corps, is not more worthy of the flattering reception with which it has been honoured.

Whilst offering to you this tribute of my respect, permit me to assure you, that it will always afford me great satisfaction to have any opportunity of evincing to the Corps, either collectively, or individually, the regard with which I am,

GENTLEMEN,

your faithful,

and most obedient servant,

RICH^D. SANDILANDS.

ADDRESS

Etc.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW CHRISTIANS.

CALLED upon as I am this day, by this honourable Corps, to perform the ceremony usually accompanying the presentation of Colours to the new military associated bodies of this kingdom; associated for the defence of their King and Country; the protection of their families, their religion, and their laws; I may naturally be expected to offer a few observations upon the advantages which have already resulted from this general mode of union, and upon the mo-

ral importance of the act which now engages our attention. It is an act which ought not to be regarded with the levity of profane exhibition, since you are all solemnly assembled, in the face of heaven, and under the sacred banner of the christian religion, to pledge yourselves, as by an holy vow, by this ¹ ENSIGN, which is so ² respectably presented to you from the ³ liberal donor, that you will never shrink from the defence of the rights and properties of your King, and fellow citizens, which are so gloriously fenced around with just and equitable laws.

These are the praiseworthy purposes for which this loyal nation hath, in an hitherto unexampled manner, formed itself into associations; new motives, which on this occasion have sprung from the common enemy, giving rise to new modes of exertion: and it hath most eminently felt the happy effects of the adoption of so fa-

¹ The standard bearing the colours. ² Presented by Miss Gainsborough. ³ Given by Mrs. Tryon.

latory a measure; for whilst we have regrettably beheld, in our sister kingdom, the streams of blood, like an impetuous torrent, flowing from the reeking bodies of poor deluded, though implacable, and sanguinary men; who spread fire and desolation wherever the fiat of their infuriated leaders may chance to direct them; who, incapable of foresight, and destitute of system, have no other object than the hope of becoming plunderers in the flames; —whilst, I say, we have, with infinite regret, beheld these outrages in our sister kingdom; we of this happy nation have, by appropriate, and prudent regulations been, under the protection of heaven, most wonderfully preserved from defeats abroad, from internal commotions at home, and from the malicious machinations of our foreign foes.

For so great, so invaluable a mark of the divine favour, let us here pause! — and after the example of the royal, and

ntrepid Leader of a band of british heroes at the battle of Azincourt, and after the example of many more ¹ worthies in whose heroic breasts the sentiments of piety and religion were not obscured by the exultation of victory, bow with humble submission to the throne of heaven, and give to God the glory. I beseech you then, my worthy countrymen; always to remember, and that with awful reverence, this one indisputably fixed, and fundamental principle; that it is the Almighty Maker of the world, who, from its creation, hath established and destroyed kingdoms, and nations; and appointed their permanent prosperity only, as long as mankind deserve well under his eternally well regulated, and immutable laws. He has laid before them in his sacred oracles, rules for the regulation of their conduct; but permits

¹ A remarkable instance of this kind occurred in the great Sobieski, king of Poland, after having defeated, with a comparatively small army, 150,000 Turks who had laid siege to Vienna. See the History of Poland, published in 1795, page 196. But the most recent within public knowledge is that of Admiral Nelson. See his public dispatch upon his defeat of the French fleet off the mouth of the Nile: Almighty God has blessed his Majesty's arms, &c.

the extravagant licentiousness, and unbounded ambition of men, to riot in the abominations and prodigality of the age, till the measure of their iniquity is full ; but permits it only, lest he should appear to take away the fair freedom of human actions. For these actions, however lightly the consequence may be regarded, I speak to you my fellow christians with deference, but with that firmness with which I ought to speak ; I repeat, that for these actions we shall at some solemn period hereafter, be all obliged to give ¹ account ; whether we have exercised them in a private, or in a national and public capacity.

But that I may keep steadily in view the object for which this assembly, together with the associated bands of this envied island, and kingdom, have been formed ; I shall endeavour to bring to your recollection how governments, kingdoms, and nations, have sprung into being ; from individuals associating themselves to protect,

and defend their rights, and property, against the encroaching oppressions of their enemies.

In the infancy of the world, when mankind had not greatly multiplied, every parent naturally became the protector of his own family; and a kind of legislator to his little domestic society; but in process of time, as they increased in numbers, and possessions, they increased in luxury, the parent of imaginary wants, and the nurse of accumulating crimes.

Hence the turbulent dispositions of some, in those societies, invited coercion; and taught the necessity of public laws; and magistrates and rulers were gradually appointed by the more discerning amongst them, to accommodate dissentions, and curb the unruly by restraint. Hence arose the necessity of governments, which progressively extending, were at length formed into states or kingdoms, under chosen ru-

¹ See Rollin's Introd. anc. hist.

lers; who, with the society over which they ruled, associated themselves together for their mutual protection against the crafty designs of those, whose rapacity or ambition might stimulate them to the pursuit of unwarrantable enterprize. As these governments grew more populous, and extensive, each ruler, upon his approved moderation and wisdom, became dignified with the majestic title of ¹ King, on whom a sceptre was bestowed; to whom tribute was granted and homage paid: guards were appointed for the security of their persons, and as honourable appendages to the royal character: the ² full powers of the administration of justice were committed to their management; and for the punishment of crimes they were invested with the sword. Content with these honours, and satisfied with their power and dominion, they were more solicitous to defend, than to enlarge the boundaries of

¹ Quos ad fastigium hujus majestatis, non ambitio popularis, sed spectata inter bonos moderatio, provehebat.

Justin. l. 1. c. 1.

² Populus nullis legibus tenebatur: arbitria principum pro legibus erant. *ibid.*

their domain. However, as feuds and animosities to the subversion of all order, and indeed not unfrequently to the total ruin of the parties, where different interests are competitors, sometimes break out, even in well regulated families ; so, from this irritable disposition in men, from jarring interests, a desire of glory, and extended dominion ; it might fairly be expected that states and kingdoms would not be long exempt from this mighty evil. Accordingly we read of ¹ kings, ambitious in their projects, and insatiable of renown, waging remote and distant wars in the early periods of government, for what has been called the *glory* of their subjects only, as they declined the government of the conquests they had made.

Ninus, king of the Assyrians, seems to have been the first, whose lust of ambition, and exorbitant ardour for the enlarge-

¹ Sesostris king of Egypt, and Tanaus king of Scythia. See also the life of Alexander the great; and, in modern times, that of Charles XII. of Sweden.

ment of his territorial possessions, pushed him on to conquests: his enterprising spirit, inflamed with a series of success, spurred him forward to a vast aggrandizement of power; and, at length, enabled him to reduce all the countries of the East under his government and authority. But the resentments and jealousies, which on such occasions, naturally pervade the human mind, and operate upon the inclinations and passions of men to resist the oppressions of a daring and encroaching enemy, and dethrone from his ill acquired eminence the invader of usurped possessions, would irresistibly impel smaller communities, to league and confederate together, as afterwards the commonwealths of Greece against the kings of Persia; or, in later times, the cantons of Switzerland and the states of Holland against the Austrian and other powers, to seek their safety by unanimous exertions against a formidable oppressor. Yet, however favourably these circumstances may, in all ages, have co-operated, and enabled the confederates to

check the progress of overbearing princes, and turn the tide of victory ; success has seldom taught the victors better lessons than the vanquished ; seldom taught them that true heroic virtue consists in the exercise of clemency, and that the greatness of a superior mind is evinced by the mild measures of a forgiving conduct. But often, on the contrary, fired with a sense of the injuries they sustained ; or with the same desire of rapacity, or domination, which marked the character of their adversaries ; they who, from sufferings, should have learned moderation, have frequently allowed themselves to be hurried into the most unjustifiable means of revenge ; and have sometimes deprived even unoffending princes of their liberties and lives, or tortured them by ingeniously contrived and wanton cruelties ; forced them to undertake the servile and laborious employment of mines, degraded them by the most humiliating offices of the basest slavery, and dispoliated both them and their posterity

¹ See Rollin's anc. hist. vol. 1.

of every vestige of their possessions in order to augment their own.

Thus nations who before had enjoyed the blessings of liberty suffered its deprivation, with the loss of all their property; and endured the hardships of a cruel bondage under the tyranny of those conquerors, who claimed their servitude as the spoils of war; and taught the invidious distinction between a master and a slave.

Such various causes, such vicissitudes of fortune, have ever proved greatly instrumental in national revolutions; sometimes in erecting vast and mighty empires out of petty states and kingdoms; and in fixing one potentate to govern, where many before swayed a sceptre. However, there have never been wanting good and virtuous princes, remarkable for their wisdom and discernment; their moderation and magnanimity of soul; who, attentive to the public weal, have always made their people's sufferings their own; who

have assiduously sought to win the affections of the conquered ; ruled them with mildness and great political discretion ; and who have disdained to impose on them burdens too heavy to be born. Forbearance and philanthropy like this, will obliterate the prejudices of enemies ; will secure the applause of virtuous and loyal citizens ; will dignify the faithful page of history ; and for ever immortalize a Prince's name.

Thus I have endeavoured to lay before you a general, but concise, account of the political associations of mankind ; and of the origin of states and kingdoms in the earliest ages, from the most authentic records that have been transmitted to us on the subject ; and as full as the shortness of the notice, with which I was favoured, would allow me to be prepared.

It now, my worthy fellow-christians, only remains for me to make some few observations upon this new mode of association, which, as I before observed, under

the providence of God, has proved a blessing to this country. It has united in one common bond of amity and friendship, and in one general cause, many, otherwise, careless or disaffected persons in the state; and made men active in the discovery of any secret plot, contrivance, or stratagem, aimed at the subversion of our government, liberty, or laws. It has not only had the happy tendency to sap to the very foundation plans artfully laid, for the destruction of all that is held valuable to Britons, and which liberty alone can bestow; but it has preserved innumerable members of the community from the contagion of plausible and specious speculations, calculated only to mislead the unwary; which, like a pestilence on the body, often, by insensible degrees, pervades, and fastens on, the mental faculties of good and upright men. It has preserved us from the dreadful evils of french fraternity, and the inauspicious and cant terms of liberty and equality; terms which have produced more misery wherever their baleful influ-

ence has extended, than all the french arms could unitedly have accomplished. It has guarded us against those evils, which are mingled in the mass of that wicked and abhorred ¹ system that drives at the destruction of all moral and religious principles, the luxuriant scion of the philosophy of France, which, though fostered in her own bosom, like the offspring of the Pe- lican, has turned and preyed upon the vitals of its mother, and insatiably strug- gles to extend its voracious appetition to all the quarters of the globe. In Europe, we have beheld Holland, Flanders, Ger- many, Switzerland, Italy, Ireland, and even Spain, to exhibit woful examples of its devouring progress. Holland has mi- serably experienced the loss of all her trade, commerce, and independance; and Italy, long the seat of classic taste, science, and elegant refinements, has been plun- dered of all her highly esteemed and pre- cious stores, and the once great Potentate of Rome, whom all Europe venerated, has been turned out from his pontifical dignity,

¹ See the Pursuits of Literature, page 19—22.

a wandering beggar. These are the blessings for which french fraternity is offered! Wisely therefore, my loyal brethren, have you associated together to oppose the dreadful ravages of this destructive system; and whilst you steadily and virtuously maintain your stations, you will have no cause to be ¹ “ afraid of any terror by night, or of the pestilence that walketh in darkness, or of the sickness that destroyeth in the noon day; a thousand may fall beside you, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come nigh you: yea with your eyes shall you behold and see the reward of the ungodly.” You will convince mankind of your upright intentions, and that you put on this martial appearance but for the sake of peace, subordination and good order; to defend your king and your country, your families, your religion and your laws, from the calamities of intestine broils, and the implacable atrocities of your foreign enemies.

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¹ Psalm 91. 5.

Peace and good order are always best preserved under an approved delegation of a well-supported authority ; and under a prudent exercise of that authority, the members of a body politic move on in an amicable confederacy together, and give spirit and energy to the cause they undertake by a pleasing and suitable variety of forms. But if the delegated authority should prove inefficient, subordination can no longer be maintained ; and the advantages of the general cause will be lost in its unhappy dissolution. Every one will be willing to assume, what no one will be willing to concede ; whilst anarchy and confusion will raise their heads triumphant, and laugh at the folly of the multitude who, from want of thought and experience, absurdly supposed it was an easy task to govern.

Unite cordially together then, my friends, and “ take heed that ye fall not out by the way.” Unanimity, in all un-

dertakings, is the very basis of success. Without it, Alexander himself would never have led on his victorious troops to such a succession of brilliant conquests; nor would Carthage, the proud offspring of commercial Tyre, for so long a period have maintained her own importance and the sovereignty of the seas against the Roman arms; which could never gain the ascendency, till, in her councils, faction raised its head, and succeeded in recalling her Hannibal from Italy: nor without it would Buonaparte, the Alexander or the Hannibal of France, whose unprincipled, but daring and capacious soul soars to imitate their examples, ever have atchieved such prodigies of valour, as to have procured him the conquests of Turin, Milan, Venice, Rome, and Malta; and led him to the bold enterprize of undertaking to subdue, and wrest from our authority, our asiatic possessions, with all our indian trade and commerce. But the arrogance of his pretensions, and the madness of his career, by

our late most signal and glorious ¹ victory, and by the ardour of an unoffending people against himself or country are, we trust, like the proud waves of the sea which have their bounds, arrested in their progress on the Egyptian shores ; where, cut off from the means of recruiting his army, dissatisfaction and dissention will prevail, the hostile Arabs, more numerously confederated, may pour down upon him like a flood, and, like the overwhelming ² cataracts of the Nile, or the tornado of the deserts, swallow him up in one devouring vortex.

Such, my brethren, is the importance of order and unanimity, but if kingdoms and communities divide against themselves, they cannot stand : they pave the road to their own ruin, and give to the vigilant and indefatigable enemy certain and decisive victory.

¹ Under the command of Admiral Nelson.

² Vide Seneca nat. quæst. l. 4. c. 2.

Keep steadily united then, my friends, in the glorious cause you have undertaken to defend, and if little feuds and animosities of a private nature, should at any time arise, shew the greatness and superior elevation of your minds, by consigning them at once, to the tomb of eternal oblivion. Let the true spirit of christian philanthropy distinguish all your actions ; it will gain you the gratifying approbation of your own conscience, and the applause of your protected neighbours ; and whilst you nobly step forward, with your *personal* and *pecuniary* services, to defend their lives and properties, and to ease the burdens of the state ; pleased with your conduct, and admiring your zeal, they will be proud to imitate your example, and give new energy to your undertaking. In all your various pursuits and avocations of life, let the true spirit of brotherly affection never be forgotten ; and I call upon you by the most sacred obligations of our most holy religion, and by every motive that can recommend you to divine favour ;

that, through the whole career of your military character, you will never obliterate from your minds, that it is God alone who giveth victory. He hath most wonderfully preserved and protected this happy land; hath eminently upheld, in the midst of hostile dangers, our most gracious Sovereign the best of Kings, fixed by his virtues in his people's love; crowned him with success against his enemies, to exalt his character, and display in the very midst of victories, the glorious ¹ attribute of mercy. Let us be ever grateful for these blessings; and let us deeply root in our minds, a never to be eradicated veneration for that incomparable ² constitution which calls him President; let us set a just value upon its laws, for they are most equitable; and upon its government, for it is most mild; and under the wisdom of its councils, our kingdoms flourish, and our commerce spreads its sails in every sea.

¹ See general amnesty proclaimed in Ireland.

² Read DeLolme on the constitution of England.

But, my respected brethren, however prosperous and flourishing may be this favoured isle, let us not arrogantly attribute her prosperity to insular state, or human skill and bravery; but awfully recollect the proud aspiring Tyre, monopolist of the commerce, and emporium of the riches of the world; who, girt around with seas, with taunting and licentious insolence, defied the omnipotence of heaven, and reared her head amongst the clouds. Alas how fallen! The great the mighty mart of nations, pampered high with luxury and pride, regardless of that Providence by whose permissive aid she towered to her state of eminence and splendour, quitted her dependence on his

¹ Bishop Newton speaking of Tyre has this remark: "Trade is a fluctuating thing: it passed from Tyre to Alexandria, from Alexandria to Venice, from Venice to Antwerp, from Antwerp to Amsterdam and London, the English rivalling the Dutch, as the French are now rivalling both."—but it must be here added, that our recently great and various naval victories, leave this happy island now without a rival in the scale of commerce; and, like Tyre of old, the mart of all the nations of the world.

power; and thus unmindful of his favours, fought the punishment decreed by heaven; which, by ¹ prediction told, would fully all her pomp and grandeur, and bury her magnificence in perpetual ruin.

“ ² Now therefore, my countrymen, standing in the sight of this assembly, solemnly arrayed in the presence of our God; resolve to seek, and keep the commandments of the Lord your God, that you may possess this good land” our British Tyre, “ and leave it for an inheritance for your children after you for ever: serve him with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind; for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts. If ye seek him, he will be found of you; but, if ye forsake him, he will,” as he has already done by Tyre, “ cast you off for ever,” for nothing can resist his will. Exalted high above the heavens, unruffled by the jar of clashing elements,

¹ Read 26, 27, 28 ch. of Ezekiel—and Bishop Newton’s dissertation on the prophecies concerning Tyre. Vol. 1. p. 314—351. 5th edit.

² 1 Chron. 28. 8, 9.

by the clang of clarions sounding war, which agitates the world; or by stern rebellion's standard raised to mutiny against his power; calmly he views the angry storms amidst the wreck of nations, and uncontrolled, commands; serenely guides the helm, and steers by his behest, the perturbated vessel of the universe.

My Brethren;—I intreat that you will now fervently join with me in prayer to God for aid in all our wants, in that full, and comprehensive, form of words which the blessed Saviour of the world himself has left for our instruction.

Our Father, &c.

HERE FOLLOWED,

The prayer for the King, the prayer for the Royal Family, the prayer in time of War and Tumults, and lastly, this in behalf of the Association.

O Most Holy, Eternal, and Almighty God;—unchangeable, and infinitely good!

with awful reverence, I bow down before thy throne, to implore thy gracious favour in behalf of these thy servants; who, before this congregation, in thy presence are arrayed, to receive the **BANNER** of the cause they take in hand. Deign, O Lord, with thine accustomed goodness, to admit them under thine especial providence, and accept them for thy chosen Band.

Pour into their hearts such an infusion of thine assisting Spirit, as may induce them, at this solemn moment, to pledge themselves in social union and fidelity, to protect and guard in christian purity, thy holy laws. Invigorate their souls with such religious fervour, as may impel them to counteract the evil designs of those who attempt the subversion of thine ordinances, by diffusing every where around the speculations of their vain philosophy; which like **SIN**, attired in captivating form, allures mankind from reason and from duty. Fill them with such admiration of thy transcendent power and greatness, as may

promote in all their undertakings, a just conformity to thy will. Inspire them with zeal to preserve the tranquillity of this peaceful Isle; and if this their **BANNER** should be at any time unfurled to oppose the baleful influence of tumultuous Outrage or stern Rebellion, let the Angel of thy presence lead them, and do thou, O God, maintain their cause.

Should Sedition or secret Conspiracy, at any time, pervade this kingdom, and beguile its deluded victims to co-operate with our implacable foreign enemies, who are bent to invade this land, and to subdue its inhabitants, roused to meet the invader under their standard, and rally around their banner to arms; then do thou inspire them with fortitude and courage, and with thy presence, thy dwelling place, thy aid, thy blessing, thy efforts, and give them victory in the battle. And finally, do thou, O God, as God, infill into their minds that sense of rectitude in guide of all their intentions, as may teach them in their vicissitudes, that valour

tempered with mercy, is the brightest ornament of a christian soldier's life.

THE BLESSING,

MY LOYAL FRIENDS,

In all your undertakings, let order and unanimity prevail; let your allegiance to your King and Country ever be unshaken, and may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, long preserve and keep you for ever, and defend you from all evil men.

F I N I S.

